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VASSAR,

MICHIGAN

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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
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VASSAR, MICH.

AN ILLUSTRATED DESCRIPTION OF

.... ITS ENTERPRISES

AND THE MEN WHO HAVE BUILT THEM.

NESTLING cosily upon either bank of the Cass, where once the Indian stalked the forest path and the red deer slaked his thirst nearly half a century ago, stands today the thriving town of Vassar. It is not the purpose of this modest little book to turn back the musty leaves of life's calendar, and recount the trials of pioneer days in this city's history, but to give the outside public the story of Vassar "as it is today." When we turn aside from the picturesque beauty of her environment, and look upon her commercial strength and importance, the advantages that she offers to the man who wants to build a home, the air of thrift and refinement that prevades her business places, her importance as a railway point, as a manufacturing town, and as a cultured atmosphere in which to rear the youth, it is not wonderful that her growth has been both strong and lasting.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Vassar's policy in things educational has always been of the broadest sort and characterized by the greatest liberality. The fruits of the wise and salutary methods that have been carried forward from year to year, have never been made so conspicuously manifest as under the present regime. As an illustration of the thoroughness of the course obtained in the Vassar High School, and that the system employed has recognition among the best colleges, it is only necessary to state that graduates from Vassar are admitted to the Michigan University without examination, and to any college in the state, and the advance standing in the State Normal at Ypsilanti and Agricultural College at Lansing. The steady advance of our schools is shown by the statistics for the past eight years under the supervision of Prof. Ira L. Forbes: In 1886-7, the enrollment

in all the departments was 437 and the average daily attendance 257. During the present year, with but slight increase in the school census, the enrollment is 439 with an average attendance of 354, showing an increase of about 50 in enrollment and 100 in daily attendance. This increase is found largely in the High School. In former years the enrollment was 56 and the average daily attendance 37. For the present year the enrollment has been 115 and the attendance 77, an increase in each of more than 100 per cent. This increase required and received an increase in the teaching force.

VASSAR'S WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water that is furnished by the Holly system for private use and manufacturing purposes is without a peer in any city of equal size in the state of Michigan. Nine flowing wells of pure, sparkling water furnishing, according to the analytical test of the State Board of Health, the most perfect article for domestic use that it is possible to obtain. This is a sanitary item that is worth framing. Physicians whose opinions carry weight, say that it was owing to the source of pure water supply that Vassar was spared the epidemic of typhoid and other fevers that have ravaged many Michigan towns this year. In addition to the power obtained from the city system of waterworks for use in factories, exceptional facilities for milling and other purposes is to be had from the dam in the Cass river at this point. A mammoth flowing spring possessing curative properties that rival those of Mt. Clemens and Alma, is located a stone's throw from the railway stations. Although this water is bottled here and sold in many sections of the state, it has never received the advertising that has pushed it prominently before the public.

Page after page of this book would be required to detail the various industries that thrive and give employment to hundreds of her citizens. The city's location as a railway center, the cheapness of fuel and power make it possible for the manufacturer of almost anything at the smallest possible outlay, and a market for the goods. Who has not heard of Vassar flannels? Who has not heard of Vassar brick? Who has not heard of Vassar flour? Not many in Michigan, we think. During the year 1895, the milling firm of M. and C. Miller handled 100,000 bushels of wheat at their mills here. Upwards of 25,000 bushels of corn, 55,000 bushels of barley, 60,000 bushels of oats, and 10,000 bushels of buckwheat brought the highest market price at their elevators.

numbers. His bed and table factory, started two years ago, gives employment to 12 or 15 men, and turns out an article that has within the past six months tested the capacity of the factory. Having no traveling salesmen other than the goods themselves, and in placing large consignments throughout twenty-five different states, it speaks volumes that furniture can be made much cheaper and that the raw material is more accessible here than at any other point in the "Thumb" of Michigan.

The Vassar Brick & Tile Company, that has been in existence for six years past, is composed of F. Miller and C. O. Evans. They employ from 35 to 40 men and have a capacity of 3,000,000 brick and 500,000 tile. Anything from 2½ to 8 inch tile is made. The quality of the goods this firm market is



MAIN STREET—Looking North.

When you figure \$75,000 paid out by this firm during 1895, to the farmers of this county it means that most of this money is spent among the business houses. The capacity of this mill is 300 barrels of flour per day. The Cooper shop will turn out from 400 to 500 finished barrels per day.

During the present year Frank Miller shipped from his warehouse in Vassar 80,000 bushels of potatoes, 40,000 bushels of oats, 60,000 bushels of barley and 25,000 bushels of corn. In addition to these enormous figures he handled upwards of 80,000 pounds of marketable wool. His saw mill at this point cut nearly 3,000,000 feet of lumber, and gave good wages to 50 hands. It will surprise the average reader to stop and think that this means the pay roll for the closing year foots up \$16,000.00 in round

attested by the fact that the contractors on the Lapeer home for the feeble minded were compelled to use Vassar outside brick in building because of its vast superiority over anything obtainable. Shipments from this company to Saginaw, Detroit, Bay City and other Michigan cities show the possibilities in this business.

In 1868 the Vassar Woolen Mills began operations. At first wool carding and cloth dressing constituted the business of the mill, but the product of the concern was gradually extended to the manufacture of yarns, cloth, etc., until at the present day nearly everything that can be made in woolen goods is turned out. During the past year the business of this institution was upwards of \$100,000.00, which means that the wool-growers of the county were paid

a whole lot of money. Thirty-five to forty men and girls are given employment here year in and year out. The officers of the company are T. W. Atwood, President; C. T. Jarvis, Vice President; J. G. Selden, Secretary and Treasurer. The reputation of this company's product is everywhere in Michigan a synonym for high and honest value. The "Vassar Blanket," "Vassar Skirt," "Vassar Cassimeres," "Vassar Yarns," are household words in every hamlet in Michigan.

Parker's Foundry & Machine Shops is one of the growing industries of Vassar. "Parker's Plows," turn the rich loam of many a Michigan farm every year, and "Parker's Sleighs" jog smoothly along a large number of Michigan roads every winter. Although the shipments of this concern have increased

VASSAR'S FIRE PROTECTION.

Almost the hardest thing that small towns have to contend with is ability to keep fire within safe bounds. In Vassar this important item has received proper encouragement. The city council appropriates \$2.00 per man for each response to an alarm, thereby giving something more substantial than individual pride in turning out. The No. 1 hose company is composed of fourteen men, acting under the direction of Fire Chief William Grant, and they are as well trained and consistent a lot of men as ever donned the red shirt and helmet. In addition to the hose reels, they have a hook and ladder equipment for use in cases of emergency.

LIGHTING.

The city obtains her light from two electric



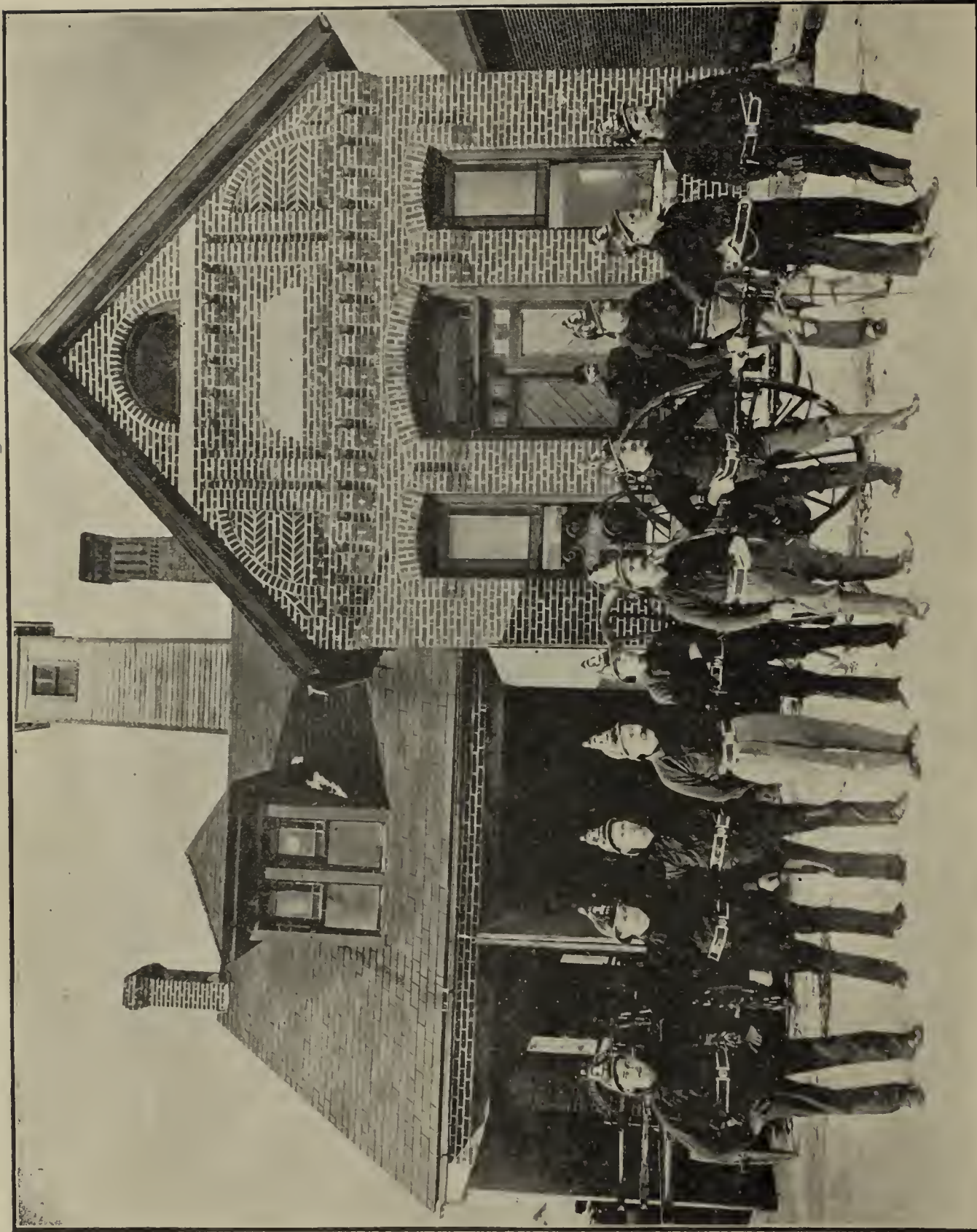
HURON AVENUE--Looking West.

over thirty per cent during the past year in the face of the stringent condition of the country the business will be run on a larger scale during the coming year.

The Vassar Pump Company, owned and operated by D. C. Atkins and Son, does a nice, profitable business down on River street. During the summer months they give work to a large number of men and manufacture all kinds of force, suction and chain pumps, tanks and cisterns.

dynamos capable of running two hundred and fifty incandescent and forty arc lights. The light for private use is obtained from the same source at a figure that is considerable lower than the cost of oil lamps. During the past year the city has undergone a series of improvements on the east as well as on the west side. Huron avenue has been macadamized, stone and cement side walks laid on the business streets, and outlying avenues opened and graded.





VASSAR FIRE DEPARTMENT.—HOSE COMPANY NO. 1.

CHIEF, WM. GRANT.

ASST CHIEF, WELLS MORGAN.

GEO. ATKINS, WM. BURNS, GUS WARNER, JNO. McLAUGHLIN, WILL BRATT, TONY WOODCOCK, JOHN LEISAW, H. WOODCOCK,
WM. CURRIE, WM. MANN, WM. LOSS, ROY MORGAN, Engineer JAMES BENNETT.

Vassar's Business Men . . .

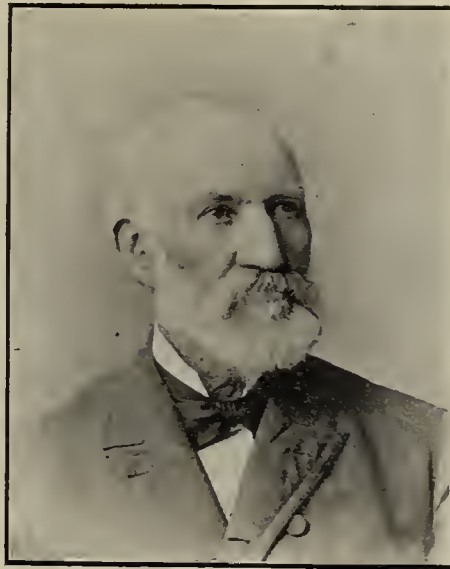
Among the pioneers of Vassar there is no one better known or more universally respected than Hon. B. W. Huston. He was born in Rochester, N. Y., in 1831, and came to Ypsilanti with his parents at the age of five years. He was educated at Ypsilanti, and admitted to the bar at Ann Arbor in September, 1854, and



B. W. HUSTON.

came to Vassar in March, 1855. In 1858 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, in 1867 a member of the Constitutional Convention, a member of the state House of Representatives in 1869-1871, and a member of the Senate in 1879. Mr. Huston was a Democrat until the rebellion, when he laid politics aside to keep until the war was over, and entered the service in 1862 as Captain of Company B, 23rd Regiment Michigan Infantry. Was promoted to the rank of Major in 1864 and mustered out in 1865. Mr. Huston has been singularly successful both in his profession and as a business man, has borne a prominent part in public affairs, and has been identified in nearly every movement in the welfare of Vassar.

HON. DAVID G. SLAFTER was born at Norwich, Vt., January 1, 1817. February 16, 1843, he married Ann Calista, daughter of John Lucas, of Pierrepont, N. Y. She was born December 6, 1825. In the fall of 1849 they settled in the town of Tuscola, and since that time Mr. Slafter has occupied a prominent position in



D. G. SLAFTER.

business and public affairs. With the exception of one year, he has held the office of justice of the peace ever since 1852, and during all that time he has never had a case reversed. He was judge of probate four years, enrolling officer and deputy provost marshal from 1863 until the close of the war, and a member of the legislature in 1863 and at the extra session of 1864. Mr. Slafter's business has been mainly real estate and lumbering. He is now extensively engaged in buying and selling pine lands, and at the present time is largely interested in pine lands in Alabama. He is a stockholder and president of the First National Bank, of this place, and is also agent of the State Board of Charities and Corrections for Tuscola



E. J. HOVEY.

county, by appointment of the Governor. Mr. Slafter is a pioneer of the county and one of Vassar's best citizens.

EDWIN J. HOVEY, Vassar's popular dentist, first saw light in Washtenaw county, Michigan, in 1841. Mr. Hovey's education, aside from the rudiments of a district school, was obtained at Dickinson institute at Romeo, and later at the Philadelphia Dental College, at which place he received his degree. His residence in Vassar has covered pretty much all the years of his professional life, except a short time spent at Fenton and Houghton in this state. In addition to his practice he at one time owned the *Times* of this city, and was a member of the city council for three terms. Mr. Hovey is prominent in Masonic circles, and is one of Vassar's clever business men and good citizens.



R. G. LYON.

ROBERT G. LYON, the subject of this sketch, was born in Washtenaw county, this state. Beginning his education in a district school he soon afterward attended the union school at Ann Arbor until seventeen years of age. The next five years was mostly spent in farm work and teaching school. When the war broke out he was driving team for a lumberman in Pennsylvania for the large sum of twelve dollars per month. On May 16th, 1861, Mr. Lyon enlisted in Co. F, N. Y. Vol., then stationed at Elmira, N. Y.

He served his time and when discharged on May 22nd 1863, received an excellent recommend from his captain. Returning to Michigan he enlisted December 18, 1863, in the 14th Michigan Battery Light Artillery and served until the close of the war. Mr. Lyon came to Vassar in 1880, and embarked in the hardware business. Since that time he has been honored by the people for five years as mayor, three years as chairman of the Board of Water Commission, and six years as a member of the School Board. Mr. Lyon is essentially a selfmade man, is popular with the masses, and sells hardware as cheap as he can consistently.



E. A. BULLARD.

E. A. BULLARD, the farming implement and machinery dealer, is one of the old standbys in Vassar. He was born November 10, 1840, in Oakland county, Michigan, and tilled the soil religiously until the war broke out, when his patriotism got the better of him and he enlisted at Brighton in Company I, Fifth Michigan Infantry. He participated in the Peninsular campaign under McClellan and was before Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks and in the seven days fight before Richmond. In the battle of Charles City Cross Roads he was wounded and discharged in December, 1862, from the Philadelphia hospital. Returning to Michigan he located at Hartland, in the pump business until September, 1864, when he enlisted again with Battery H, First Michigan Light Artillery and stayed until the close of the war. In 1866 he came to Vassar and commenced the manufacture of pumps which was contin-

ued for four years. Mr. Bullard is the kind of a man that towns like Vassar want. Since coming here he has built three houses, a pump factory and a store and boomed the upper end by platting "Bullard's Addition to Vassar." Mr. Bullard held the office of Secretary of the Masonic lodge for thirteen years, is Past Commander of the G. A. R. post, has been in the city council for two terms county supervisor one term and is at present a member of the school board and village assessor.

R. W. MILLER was born in 1836, and was a native of New Jersey. In 1854 he went to California with his brother Frank, and engaged in mining in the Sierras. Together they owned large interests in one of the richest mines in the mountains, over a million and a quarter dollars being taken out in gold dust and \$500,000 in dividends declared in three years. After closing up their mining interests in California, Mr. Miller came to Vassar in 1872, before cars ran over the Detroit and Bay City railroad, and formed a partnership under the firm name of R. W. and F. Miller and dealt in farm produce and farmer's supplies. The following year they built a large elevator near the depot and bought over 300,000 bushels of wheat, besides a large amount of oats, corn, etc., and shipped over 100 carloads of corn to the retail trade during the following win-



RICHARD W. MILLER.

ter. The volume of business over their counters run from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per day. In 1880, R. W. Miller severed his connection with the firm and went to Colorado

and mined over a good portion of that state. Panicky silver markets and hard times were not to his liking and he returned to Vassar and opened up in the boot and shoe business at the corner of Huron and Cass avenues. Mr. Miller is one of the staunch men of Vassar. The fact that he invested heavily in real estate is sufficient evidence that he believes in her future.

J. M. SMITH, Vassar's crack harness dealer, is a native of New York, and was born in Jefferson county in 1848. When Mr. Smith was still wearing knickerbockers his family removed to Ontario and



J. M. SMITH.

located at London. It was at St. Thomas, in the province of Ontario, that he first learned the trade of harness-making, which he has followed successfully in nearly every large city in the Dominion and the United States. After putting in a good many years rambling about the country, Mr. Smith finally located in Vassar five years ago. The only available place for his business at that time in Vassar was in the Barnum block, and it was here that he remained for three years, removing two years ago to the brick building he now occupies near the corner of Huron avenue and River street. From the modest beginning his business has finally branched out to be one of the best in Vassar. Mr. Smith's specialty is collar work and light harness. His work in these two branches being the peer of any no matter where made. He has manufactured some of the best track harness seen in this part of the state, one

set of which is used by Vassar's game little race mare, American Lady. A number of other horse owners in this section come to his place when they want the right sort of an article. Mr. Smith's stock of other goods in the saddlery line is the best in Vassar, and his place the only one in the county that does not handle factory work. Personally, Mr. Smith is popular and well liked, is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Foresters



CHAS. D. MILLER.

CHARLES D. MILLER, of the firm of M. & C. Miller, was born in Birmingham, Oakland County, Mich., July 15, 1850. He was the second son of Abraham Miller, a farmer of sterling worth and repute in Oakland county. Until the age of thirty years he stuck to the plow, and first made his debut in the milling business at Auburn, in this state. Peculiar adaptibility to this branch of trade brought success, and he naturally sought a larger field. In May 1884, he turned his face toward Vassar and in company with his brother, Mark, purchased the Fenner Mills on the east bank of the Cass. This was followed some time after by the purchase of the plant of the Vassar Milling Company, and the output of the concern was pushed with restless energy. Mr. Miller was married in 1874 to Miss Nettie Boyd, a Birmingham young lady, and they have three children, Charles E. Miller, who is in the milling business at Owosso, Howard M., and Miss Bessie. In the busy affairs of life Mr. Miller finds time to be a prominent Mason and a good citizen.



E. H. TAYLOR.

E. H. TAYLOR was admitted to practice May, 1873, located in Vassar and has continued in practice to the present date. He served for two years as Circuit Court Commissioner and Prosecuting Attorney for Tuscola county; Secretary of the School Board for nine years; member of the common council of Vassar eight years; village Attorney five years; member of the Grand Army of the Republic and served as Commander four terms in succession. Socially he is identified with various organizations, such as the Masonic fraternity, Independent Order of Foresters, Knights of the Loyal Guard, United Friends, and other like orders. The subject of our sketch was born at Lyth, in the county of Westmoreland, England, and emigrated to America when quite young. He located at Ransomville, Niagara County, state of New York, and during the summer season worked on the farm and in the winter attended district school. At the age of eighteen he enlisted, August 8, 1862, as a private soldier in Company E, 129th Regiment New York Infantry Volunteers. During the fall of 1862 the regiment was transferred and changed to the 8th New York Heavy Artillery, and comprised twelve companies of rank and file, 2,000 men. The regiment joined General Grant at the Battle of the Wilderness in the the spring of 1864, and remained with the army of the Potomac until the close of the war as a part of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Army Corps, commanded by General Hancock. He participated with his regiment in the many battles and skirmishes, was also

present in line of battle when General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox, April 9, 1865. During his service he rose from the ranks and was commissioned 2nd and 1st Lieutenant of Company E, 8th Regiment N. Y. Heavy Artillery during the month of June, 1865; was transferred by order of the War Department from Company E, 8th Regiment, to Company B, 10th Regiment N. Y. Volunteer Infantry as Captain. Remained with the regiment until it was mustered out at New York City, July 1865. After returning to his home, he taught school and read law until April, 1872, when he removed with his wife and children to Vassar and located at this place where he has continued to reside.

WILLIAM H. MERNER was born in Huron county, Ontario, in 1858, and came to Vassar in 1892. Mr. Merner has, since a young man, followed the business of funeral director and undertaker. He graduated from the Toronto Embalming School and the Grand Rapids School of Embalming, in addition to which he took a special course at Detroit. For a number of years he managed the large undertaking establishment of Samuel Merner,



W. H. MERNER.

at London, Ontario. In 1892 he came to Vassar and purchased the furniture and undertaking business of F. R. Fales. Mr. Merner was married in 1882, to Miss Salome Fisher, of Godrich, Ontario. He is a prominent Mason, a solid business man and a good citizen, and has since his residence in Vassar built up one of the best business concerns in the city.



JAMES P. BLACKMORE.

J. P. BLACKMORE, who has just retired from the proprietorship of the Columbia Hotel, is a native of London, Ontario. He came to Lapeer county in 1873, and for five months was in the employ of the Detroit and Bay City railroad. In 1874 he had a timber contract with the Flint and Pere Marquette, after which he returned to Canada and aided in the construction of the Great Western car shops at London. After engaging in bridge building in Indiana for a year he returned to Vassar and in company with his brother purchased the Central House which they conducted for four years. Soon after he purchased the Jewell House, and greatly improved the property in building and refurnishing. After he had disposed of the Jewell House to R. V. Bray, he built the Columbia Hotel in 1892. This is one of the most substantial buildings in the city and is furnished as neatly as any in this part of Michigan. Mr. Blackmore has done his share in the improvement of Vassar, and has been largely interested in the breeding of blooded horses. He has also been secretary of the Agricultural Society and interested in the race meetings in Vassar since the organization of the driving park.

MARK MILLER, of the firm of M. and C. Miller, is a native of Michigan, and was born at Birmingham, July 14, 1852. At the age of twenty years he engaged with the George Morris Milling Company at Birmingham, and first received the rudiments of the business in which he afterward became so proficient. Going to Nebraska some years later, he estab-

lished a mill at Marysville, where he remained for two years, returning to Michigan at the end of that time. In 1884, in connection with his brother, C. D. Miller, he came to Vassar and took the old Fenner mill plant. The firm's ability to make good goods soon increased the business until a larger plant was required, and the McHose plant where the firm now do business passed into their control. Mr. Miller is very prominent in Masonic circles and is a member of Vassar Lodge.

JOHN L. ROOT, one of Vassar's staunch citizens, was born in Litchfield, Ohio, September 23, 1846, and came to Tuscola county with his parents at the age of thirteen years, and settled near Watrousville. One year after their settlement here the war broke out and John's two



MARK MILLER.

elder brothers enlisted and went to the front, leaving him to look after the farm interests in common with his father who was in poor health. By a diligence that has characterized Mr. Root's after life, he obtained a good education at the Watrousville schools, and afterwards received the finishing touches at the Vassar High School and at Oberlin, Ohio. From the winter of 1867 until the spring of 1872, Mr. Root taught in a number of the graded schools in this part of Michigan, and in the last named year went on the road for Hill and Brothers, of Detroit, at a salary of \$12,000 a year and expenses, continuing with the firm until they went out of business in 1875. Having an established trade of no small proportions, the Stephens tea, coffee and spice house

placed him for three years in charge of their trade in the cities and large towns of Michigan. At the end of this time he purchased the store of G. W. Rogers and Company, of Watrousville, extending it to a big branch concern at Reese. Ten days after, the Reese store burned to the ground and between \$4,000 and \$5,000 of Mr. Root's good money went up in smoke. Although this was a serious blow to the young man, he sacrificed his personal property and paid out dollar for dollar. He retired to his old home, remaining there for two years before again taking the road for the Stephens company, a position that he holds today. Mr. Root has been identified with everything that has Vassar tacked to it, and has been popular with the people, having served as Justice of the Peace, as a member of the city council for two years and a member of the Board of Education, an office he holds at the present time. Socially, Mr. Root is a member of Vassar Lodge, F. and A. M., Caro Chapter, Bay City Commandry, and Moslem Temple of Detroit. His farm near the outskirts of the city is one of the finest in Tuscola county and his residence one of the prettiest that grace our city. Mr. Root was married in 1870 to Miss Christie A. Stack, of Reese, and they have one daughter, Miss Mabel.

FRANK MILLER, proprietor of the Vassar elevator and lumber yards, is a man who has little to say, but conducts more business in his line than any other man in the thumb. At his elevator he purchases all kinds of grains and farm produce at



JOHN L. ROOT.

the market price, and for this reason Vassar has become a great grain market. He purchases annually from 80,000 to 100,000 bushels of potatoes alone and his shipments in all departments are from 700 to 1,000 cars per year. At his saw mill he cuts from two to three million feet of lumber each year, and during the summer months gives employment to fifty hands, with a weekly pay roll of \$400. He carries a full line of rough, dressed and manufactured lumber, lath, shingles, coal, lime, salt, plaster, etc. A planing mill and bed factory is also conducted in connection with this business and quite a shipping demand is made for the beds. He owns and operates the Caro Electric Light Works and also owns an elevator at Caro. Mr. Miller handles a large amount of grain and produce for numerous smaller buyers throughout the county. Being acquainted and doing business direct with the largest dealers in the United States, he is able to furnish them the best of the metropolitan markets.

EDWARD G. BECKERSON was born in Halderman county, Ontario, in 1864, and followed the occupation of agricultural pursuits until about ten years ago when he came to Vassar. His first position here was the management of the Justin Wentworth farm, where he remained about a year, going to the T. North farm the five years following. He then came to Vassar and purchased the livery business of E. A. Bullard, which he has conducted since that time. Mr. Beckerson in connection with Nelson G. Spaulding,



CITY RESIDENCE OF JOHN L. ROOT.



FRANK MILLER.

this fall purchased the Jewell House, one of the best hotels in this section of Michigan. Good management and liberal busi-

ness methods continue to make the house popular and profitable. Mr. Beckerson was married in 1885 to Miss Lizzie Stahl. He is one of the popular business men of the city and is always to be counted in on anything that concerns the welfare of the town.

EDWIN E. ANDRUS was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, on January 28, 1862. Six years ago Mr. Andrus came to Vassar and opened up business for the Singer



E. J. BECKERSON.

Sewing Machine Company, handling in connection pianos, organs and all kinds of musical merchandise, which he has carried on successfully since. Mr. Andrus is a member of the Maccabees and Knights of the Loyal Guard. He was married in 1883 to Miss Alyeda E. Clay of Painsville, Ohio.



F. MILLER'S FURNITURE FACTORY.



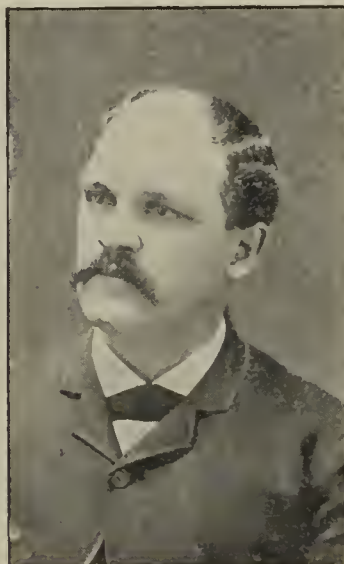
E. E. ANDRUS.

JOHN PARKER, proprietor of the Vassar Foundry, is truly a selfmade man. His opportunities for education when a boy were limited, but he made the best of this and by pluck and perseverance he has become one of Vassar's representative citizens. When he came here he learned the pumpmaker's trade and followed that occupation until about two years ago, when he started into the foundry business in the old building where several other firms had made a failure. He manufactured numerous different agricultural implements, among which might be mentioned the "Parker Plow," which is fast gaining the favor of the farmers of the surrounding country. Being a good mechanic he makes most of his own patterns, and if you are in need of a heavy or light casting call on Mr. Parker, and he will supply your wants.



JOHN PARKER.

PRESCOTT L. VARNUM was born July 25, 1850, in Lapeer county, and came to Vassar in 1875. He immediately engaged in the shoe business here, and has been closely identified with the city's growth and interests since that time. Mr. Varnum has held various offices of public trust, being an alderman eight years, city treasurer two years, county supervisor five years, and a member of the Board of Education for ten years, a position he now holds. Mr. Varnum has in connection with his shoe business been the agent of the American Express Company at this point.



P. L. VARNUM.

1865, and received his education at Romeo. Mr. Teeters' debut in the butcher business was marked by a whole lot of hard work, but it proved a good stepping stone to the progress he made in later years. In 1885 he opened a market at Washington, Michigan, which he continued for two years, removing to Reese, where he remained three years. In company with W. O. Knowles he formed a partnership three years ago, and the firm have continued at their present quarters since that time. This is one of the young business houses of the city and that people endorse the square-toed methods of these two young men is evidenced by the patronage accorded them. Mr. Teeters was married in 1889 to Miss Maude Pardee, of Reese, Michigan.



C. J. TEETERS.

The subject of this sketch (Mr. J. W. McLellan) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1858, was afterwards apprenticed and worked in that city for several years and has had over twenty years experience in Vassar, Toronto and Detroit. He removed here from the latter place three years ago, filling the position of head cutter for the Vassar Pant Company, and six months later established his present business. Mr. McLellan comes honestly by his adaptability to the trade, his paternal grandfather, two uncles, father and three members of this family being engaged in the business. In addition to the trade that is accorded him at home he also does an extensive business at Caro, Millington, Mayville and adjoining towns. Mr. McLellan employs a force of skilled workmen that enables him to turn out an article of work second to none in the state.



J. W. McLELLAN.

GILBERT H. MOORE, the subject of this sketch is a native of Michigan, and was born in Mt. Clemens, Macomb county, May 18, 1857. In boyhood he was deprived of many advantages generally enjoyed by the youth of the country, and when he made a start in the world the only thing he had to recommend himself was good health, industry and energy, and they proved a good stepping stone to success. Mr. Moore came to Vassar six years ago, and opened up neat tonsorial parlors, where he made cleanliness and diligence the ruling feature. Socially, Mr. Moore is a Mason, holding the office of Senior Deacon, is a Knight of Pythias, a member of the Knights of the Loyal Guard, and has represented Vassar Lodge of Odd Fellows in the Grand

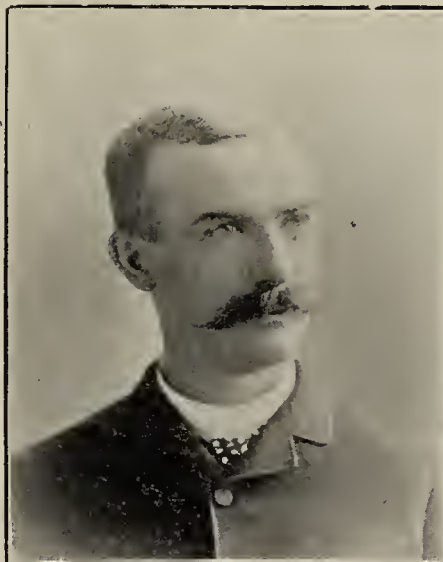


G. H. MOORE.

Lodge. Always willing to lend a hand in anything that pertained to the welfare of Vassar, he has made for himself something that is always beneficial, "a good name at home."

CHARLES O. EVANS was born January 12, 1862, in New Boston, Michigan. Ever since he was able to wear long pants he has been in the brick business, working first for his father at his New Boston yards, and later was twelve years in business for himself at Caro. Six years ago Mr. Evans came to Vassar and in company with F. Miller organized the Vassar Brick and Tile Company. The concern is one of the best institution in Vassar, giving employment to a large number of men and doing an extensive shipping

business. Mr. Evans is an unassuming, straightforward business man and belongs to Vassar lodge of Masons. He was married in 1890, to Miss Kate Adams, of Vassar.



CHAS. O. EVANS.

W. O. KNOWLES, the subject of this sketch, is a Canadian by birth, being born at Dorchester, Ontario, April 3, 1867. Mr. Knowles had only passed the second mile stone of his existence when his family removed to Vassar, and it was here that he received his education at our high school. Three years ago Mr. Knowles in company with C. J. Teeters, formed a partnership and established the meat and poultry business at their present location. Strict attention to business and



W. O. KNOWLES.

square business methods win for the firm a good patronage. Mr. Knowles was married in 1889 to Miss Anna A. Lewis, of Vassar.

The county of Lapeer has contributed some pretty good citizens to the domain of Vassar during the past twenty-five years, among whom we mention W. R. Hollenbeck. He was born on November 14, 1862, and received a common school education, that was afterwards polished off at the Otisville grade schools. At the age of twenty-one years Mr. Hollenbeck embarked in the grocery business at Columbiaville, removing to Vassar two years later, being mayor of Columbiaville at the time. During his residence in Vassar Mr. Hollenbeck has served as township clerk for three years, been a member of the board of alderman for two years, and in 1893 was honored by being elected supervisor on the republican ticket. He has always been looked upon



W. R. HOLLENBECK.

as a consistent worker for the interest of the people, and is at present a member of the Water Board of this city. Mr. Hollenbeck's grocery business is located at the corner of Cass and Huron avenues.

JAMES A. TROTTER, editor of the Tuscola County Pioneer, was born in 1852, in Schoharie county, New York. In 1863 he removed to Vassar where his education was completed in the Union schools. In 1869, when he was about seventeen years of age his father purchased the Pioneer and in conjunction with the two sons, J. A. and William, began its publication. In 1875 the two purchased the father's interest and two years later the interest of William was bought by the present owner. Mr. Trotter was clerk of the city from 1876 to 1880, was for four years a



J. A. TROTTER.

member of the Common Council and served six years on the Board of Education. He has been connected with the Tuscola County Agricultural Society for many years and that organization owes a measure of its popularity and success to Jim's good head work. Mr. Trotter is conspicuous in Masonic circles and has served as Master of the Vassar lodge for a number of years.

W. T. WATSON was born in New York state in 1864, and removed with his parents to Mecosta county, Michigan, at the age of one year. Mr. Watson is the son of Rev. R. H. Watson, a Congregational minister of considerable repute in Michigan. His first venture in the art of photography was at Bellevue, Michigan, and afterward at Shephard. Three years ago he came to Vassar and purchased the gallery at his present location. His work embraces every branch of photography. Mr. Watson was married in 1892 to Miss Alice Monroe, at Calamo, Michigan.



W. T. WATSON.

E. EMMETT MILLER, one of the "young crowd" of Vassar, was born January 1, 1873, in this city. He attended the Vassar high school and got a good start in the world by staying around the old *Times* office on "press days," and "learning the cases" by the ruddy glow of an oil lamp at nights. Six years ago he was given the charge of the mechanical department of the Tuscola County Pioneer, one of the best county papers in Michigan, a position he now occupies. One year ago he assumed the management of Miller's Opera House, one of the prettiest and most substantial theaters in the "Thumb." The liberal and consistent methods that characterize his management has given the house a "good name at home," and as theatrical people express it, "a good place to come to."



E. E. MILLER.

The class of attractions that have visited Vassar since he assumed charge have been of the highest order.



M. AND C. MILLER'S FLOURING MILL.

W. J. SPEARS, of the law firm of Huston and Spears, was born thirty-two years ago in Arbela, Tuscola county, and by his own pluck and energy pushed himself to the front in his profession. In 1854 he began the study of law in the office of which he is now a partner, was admitted to the bar of Tuscola county in 1885, and in June, 1886, graduated from the University of Michigan receiving the degree of Bachelor of Law. He returned to Vassar the same year, was elected Circuit Court Commissioner, and re-elected in 1888. Mr. Spears was elected City Attorney in 1892, an office he holds at the present time. He is also Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Michigan School for the Deaf, and has been honored in various ways by the people.



W. J. SPEARS.

One of the substantial business concerns of Vassar has for its founder and perpetuator, C. A. Mapes. His business was established in 1887 and the trade that has been accorded him has been nothing short of phenomenal. The stock of clothing, furnishing goods, hat, caps, etc., is the largest carried in Tuscola county and his sales foot up the heaviest of any local concern doing business here in that line. Mr. Mapes has vast interests in Vassar, being one of the directors of a local bank and holding various other business interests. He was honored by the people by being elected alderman and is prominent in the Pythian and Masonic fraternities.

The Tuscola County Agricultural Society is one of the few successful county fair organizations in the state. Organized over thirty years, the society has each year met with the hearty approval and liberal support of the people and every succeeding fair seems to be an improvement over its predecessor. The society is an institution believed in and appreciated by the farmers of the county, who realize its value from an agricultural as well as the commercial standpoint. In addition to its distributing many hundred dollars yearly to patrons, it is through the stimulus of its exhibitions that the best products of the farm and household have been developed and the "scrub" been forced to give way to the thoroughbred, until no county in the state can boast of finer or better bred horses, cattle,



A CORNER IN MAPES' BIG CLOTHING HOUSE.

sheep or swine, than can ours. The annual fairs of the society are held at Vassar,



WILLIAM GRANT.

the railroad and commercial center of the county. The fair grounds comprise twenty-three acres, artistically laid out and fully equipped with commodious buildings excelled by no town or city in the state. The half-mile track is pronounced by horsemen to be the best in Michigan. The grounds and improvements represent an outlay of nearly \$20,000.

The officers for 1895 are, President, Wm. Kirk, Fairgrove; Vice-President, N. E. York, Arbela; Secretary, R. S. Weaver, Watrousville; Treasurer, J. A. Trotter, Vassar.

WILLIAM GRANT, crack laundryman, is a native of this city, and was born February 5, 1864. Nine years ago he opened an unpretentious hand laundry that received so much encouragement in both the city and surrounding towns that a steam plant was soon necessary to keep pace with the volume of business. This was put in six years ago. Since that time new and approved laundry machinery has been constantly added and facilities for handling out of town work materially increased. Regular agencies at Yale, Columbiaville, Reese, Richville, Brown City and fifteen other Michigan towns give the shipping department of the business plenty to look after. Mr. Grant is purely a Vassar product and by a persistent exhibition of pluck, together with a general popularity, has gained a success that anybody could be proud of.



VASSAR BRICK AND TILE COMPANY'S YARDS.



ALDERMAN C. C. HILL.



ALDERMAN J. W. GOLLAN.



ALDERMAN T. M. STEPHENS.



W. H. STARK, Mayor.



ALDERMAN H. J. MILLER.



ALDERMAN SANFORD.



ALDERMAN J. E. VESCELIUS.

Vassar's Common Council . . .

WILLIAM H. STARK, the present Mayor of Vassar, was born in Port Dover, Ontario, July 15, 1861. In 1862 he removed with his parents to Saginaw, where he worked in the soap factory owned by his father. At the early age of sixteen he began in the livery business for himself, which he carried on successfully four years, turning his hand to railroad contracting next, at which he was especially fortunate. In 1883 Mr. Stark returned to Vassar and engaged in the livery business which he conducted for six years, and later was in the boot and shoe business for three years. After selling out his boot and shoe business he became one of the firm of Stark and Mapes, now known as the Vassar Pant Company, and after a year of successful business purchased the entire interest which has since been carried on by him. From the modest beginning, the business of this concern has grown so rapidly that it requires a working force of thirty employees. In the past year the business of the concern covered every town north of Vassar in Michigan and many Wisconsin cities. Something over \$10,000 was paid during the year just ending for labor, which rates this institution among the best. Mr. Stark is a member of Vassar Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Foresters, Knights of the Maccabees and Loyal Orange Lodge. In politics he is a Republican and has been honored by being elected township treasurer in 1889 and 1890, and in 1891 was elected Mayor of Vassar, an office which he fills efficiently at the present time. Mr. Stark was President of the Tuscola County Republican Club for one year and is at present a member of the Republican County Central Committee. He was also honored in the Senatorial Convention at Lapeer by having the solid vote of his county for 104 ballots for the nomination of Senator for the twenty-second senatorial district. It was in this memorable convention that John L. Preston was nominated on the one hundred and fifth ballot by a unanimous vote. Mr. Stark possesses more than ordinary force of character, which is guided by a clear discernment and excellent business capacity.

The subject of this sketch, Mr. Sanford, was born in Green county, New York, in 1842, and came to Michigan in 1870 and settled in Ingham county. It was in 1881 that Mr. Sanford came to Vassar and started in business in the hardware line, a branch of trade with which he had been identified since his boyhood days. His success is not therefore the result of chance, but the fruit of wise and consistent methods and business vigilance. His store in Vassar is located in the Huston block and is one of the most centrally located, and his stock the peer of any in Tuscola county. Mr. Sanford has always been identified with the best interests of Vassar and has backed his faith in the proud city of the Cass by encouraging all of her institutions. He was elected by the people as a member of the board of aldermen two years ago, a place he holds at the present day. Socially Mr. Sanford is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and belongs to the Vassar lodge.

CHARLES C. HILL, the shoe man of Vassar, was born in Birmingham, Michigan, April 20, 1863, and was a son of Rev. S. N. Hill, the widely known pastor of the Presbyterian church in Vassar. Mr. Hill received his education at the Vassar high school, and in 1881 allied himself with the Vassar Woolen Company as house salesman, continuing in that capacity until 1894 with the exception of two seasons. Three years ago he formed a partnership in the shoe and furnishing goods business under the firm name of Hill and Lewis. On January 1, 1895, Mr. Hill succeeded the firm, and has conducted the business since that time. He was elected alderman last year on the Republican ticket, is prominent in Masonic and Pythian circles and is well liked by patrician and plebian. Hill owes his success in business to the liberal use of printers ink and common sense. There are not many homes in Tuscola county that have not heard of Hill, the shoeman. In addition to the shoe business he finds time to act in the capacity of City Clerk and secretary of the Business Men's Association. Mr. Hill was married in 1885 to Miss Alice Hough, of Almont.

The subject of this sketch, J. E. Vescelius was born October 10, 1848, in Emfield, New York. In 1857 he removed with his family to Tuscola county, and settled on a farm three miles south of Tuscola. Mr. Vescelius came to Vassar in 1877 and engaged in the gun and sporting goods business. His business house is located on Cass avenue near Huron. He also buys raw furs in season and does considerable business in this line. In 1885 he organized the Vassar Rifle Club with twenty-five members. The range of the club is located within the city limits, and its members enjoy the distinction of winning a large number of first prizes in the state shoots. Mr. Vescelius is a member of the board of aldermen of the city of Vassar and is one of her good citizens.

ALDERMAN THOMAS M. STEPHENS was born in Almont, Lapeer county, Michigan, November 24, 1855, and was satisfied to till the soil of Lapeer county until he was twenty-five years of age. In 1880 he was married to Miss Hattie A. Hough, of Almont, and removed to Vassar and formed a partnership with M. T. Butts in the grocery business. The firm continued in existence for three years. Mr. Stephens then removed to Romeo and entered the store of J. J. Cochrane where he remained for four years. He then took the road for H. P. Baldwin and Company, a Detroit shoe house, and removed his family to Vassar. Mr. Stephens was elected last spring to the office of alderman, he is superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School and is an active worker in church affairs. Mr. Stephens is the kind of citizens Vassar is glad to hold.

As an evidence that it pays to attend to business and follow the straight and narrow path, it is only necessary to point to the career of H. J. Miller, one of Vassar's crack druggists. He was born on September 6, 1866, at Lawrence, Ontario, and received only a common school education. At the age of sixteen he entered a drug store at Fort Gratiot where he remained for ten years. In March, 1891, Mr. Miller came to Vassar and started in business for himself with but little money

and whole lots of energy. By a liberal use of the latter he got a good fund of the former and has one of the best conducted drug concerns in this county. He has served two years as alderman of this city, and is trustee and treasurer of the M. E. Church, is a Mason and a member of the Royal Arcanum. Mr. Miller was married in 1892 to Clara A. Swartzfeiguer of Vassar, and has one of the neatest little homes in the city.

JOHN W. GOLLAN was born in Ransomville, New York, in 1861, and received his education at Lockport, New York. In 1880 Mr. Gollan came to Vassar and entered the dry goods store of McHose and Gage, remaining there something over a year when he was engaged as salesman for William Barie and Son, of Saginaw. In 1888 he formed a partnership with J. T. Stecker in the dry goods business which continued up to the time of Mr. Stecker's death, when Mr. Gollan assumed the entire business. This was in 1890. The business has been conducted by him on a strictly first-class plan since that time, and is one of the model places of business in Vassar, and is popular socially. He was married in 1890 to Miss Birdell Garman, of Vassar.

Mr. Gollan was elected alderman of the city last year.



IRA L. FORBES.

IRA L. FORBES, superintendent of the Vassar schools, was born in Wayne county, New York, in 1842, being fresh from school in 1862, when his patriotism caused him to enlist in the 18th Michigan Infantry. After nine months in camp and field, his education and attainments



RICHARD MORRIS, M. D.

caused him to be released from field duty and assigned to duty in the Provost Marshal's department as clerk of the military prisons at Nashville, Tennessee. He was soon made chief clerk, a position which he filled to the satisfaction of the General in charge to the close of the war. After the war he was again at school for a year, after which he began his career as a teacher of the young, which he has followed continuously ever since. He is now in his ninth year as Superintendent of the Vassar schools, having successfully held the position against a most wicked attack by the County Board of Examiners in the interest of one of their number. Not one of the corrupt board is now in the teaching profession in our county. Mr. Forbes is always prominent in any movement for culture or advancement and it is due to him that Vassar's schools are in a prosperous condition.

RICHARD MORRIS, M. D., one of the most successful practitioners of Tuscola county, is a native of Limerick, Ireland. When he was less than a year old his parents emigrated to the new world and settled in New York State, removing later to Canada, where he received his education. Dr. Morris is a graduate of the Toronto School of Medicine, of the Buffalo University and of the Military School of Canada. In 1870, Dr. Morris came to Tuscola county and settled at Watrousville, in which place he continued the practice of his profession until 1883 when he removed to Vassar. He was married in 1870 to Josephine Jilson. Dr. Morris

is a close student and an able diagnostician, is a Mason and has held the office of county coroner most of the time since his residence here. At the present time he holds the office of health officer of Vassar.

ARTHUR S. ROGERS, M. D., Ph. C., is one of Tuscola county's own sons and first saw the light of day thirty-two years ago at Watrousville. Dr. Rogers received his education at the Vassar high school, and in 1882 entered the pharmacy department of the University of Michigan, taking a literary course in connection, finishing the Ph. C. course in 1885 with a credit of three years on the A. B. chemistry course. In the spring of 1885 he opened and assumed the management of the Eagle drug store in Saginaw, remaining in that capacity until the business was disposed of two years later. As the drug business was intentionally preparatory to the study of medicine, he returned to the University of Michigan and entered the medical department upon advanced standing and finished in 1890. During the year following he practiced medicine and taught pathology in the University, and came to Vassar in 1892. Although he took only temporary quarters in this city his success as a practitioner among the people of his own county have made



A. S. ROGERS, M. D.

them permanent. Dr. Rogers is a member of the Washtenaw Medical Association and holds the position of Health Officer of Vassar. His practice is one of the most lucrative in the county, and a pleasing personality has made him popular with the masses.



REV. C. H. MORGAN.

REV. CHARLES H. MORGAN, Ph. D., pastor of the First M. E. Church, Vassar, was born in Oakland county, Michigan, November 13, 1852, his ancestors for two generations back being natives of New York and New Jersey. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 1877, and of Boston University, School of Theology, 1879, School of all Sciences, degree of Ph. D., 1883. In 1879 he became a member of the Detroit Annual Conference, and his previous pastorates have been at Marquette, Fowlerville, Romeo, Jefferson Street, Saginaw, East Side, Adrian, West Bay City, and Howell. He married Miss Emma D. Webster, of Farrington, Michigan, June 22, 1887. They have one child, Leslie Webster, born March 10, 1894. Dr. Morgan has always given close attention to work among the children and young peo-

ple, and was a member of the convention which organized the Epworth League at Cleveland in 1889. Revivals, temperance and other social reforms are a prominent feature of his work. He is the author of a system of gathering and classifying newspaper material and of various lectures, the most popular of which are "The Seven Wonders of the Nineteenth Century," "Five-Fifths of a Farmer," and "Social Movements of our times."

The First Presbyterian Church of Vassar dates back to the spring of 1855. Although the church organization dates from 1855, there was no regular minister until 1856 when Rev. George Winter, then located at Brandon, Oakland county, made a visit and preached for the first time in the frame school house opposite the tannery. The first church edifice was built and dedicated in August, 1859, and the present spacious building was erected in 1891. Mr. E. A. Hoffman, the present pastor, is a man of broad views and liberal education.

The Vassar Class of the United Brethren in Christ was organized with thirty-five members in 1880, in the old town hall over the *Times* office, and in the following year built the house which they now occupy on the east side of the river. Rev. A. E. Serbert was the organizer and builder of the first house of worship. Since that time ten pastors have had charge of the interests of the little flock. Rev. Ira J. Tripp, the present incumbent, was admitted to the ministry in 1893 and

took the pastorate of the United Brethren Church at Petoskey in 1894. In 1895 he came to Vassar, and interest in the work has increased materially since that time.

The Methodist Episcopal Church Society was formed by S. P. Lee, preacher in charge of the Genesee Circuit, in October, 1851, and consisted of L. W. Van Kleeck, Emily Van Kleeck, Ebenezer Morse, Elizabeth and Harriet Gibbs, wives of Sabin and Orin Gibbs. This class was afterwards disbanded, but was again organized in 1854 by Charles Haines, preacher in charge of the Tuscola Circuit and consisted of six members, from which has grown the present flourishing society. Vassar was connected with the Tuscola Circuit and had preaching by pastors appointed for Tuscola until 1863, when the name was changed



REV. IRA J. TRIPP.

to Vassar and J. H. Horton appointed pastor. The services were held in the school house until the Presbyterian church was dedicated, and which was used until they built a church of their own. At the conference of 1867, J. O. Bancroft was appointed to Vassar in view of building a church. At this time there were but thirty-five members in the church and it looked almost an impossibility to build a church, but with the business men of the town on the board of trustees and the indefatigable labor of the pastor and his wife, a substantial church was built and furnished at a cost of \$7,400. It was dedicated July 11, 1869. A Sunday school was also organized and has been carried on very successfully un-



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

der the efficient superintendency of the Hon. B. W. Huston for the past twenty-five years. The present home of this society was began in May of this year and is one of the finest specimens of church architecture that can be found. The basement consists of a reception hall, dining room, kitchen and furnace room with all the necessary equipments. The audience room has a raised floor with circular seats and will accommodate four hundred and fifty people. The Sunday school room is in immediate connection and is separated from the main room by a rolling partition. This new edifice was dedicated September 1, 1895.



REV. W. H. BETTEYS

The First Baptist Church of Vassar was organized April 15, 1888, with a charter membership of nine persons. In May, 1889, the society incorporated under laws of the state, and was recognized as a regular Baptist church. The services are for the present held in the Grand Army hall on Huron avenue, while the magnificent temple of worship that the earnest and willing workers of the society are building, is in the course of erection. A brief description of the dimensions of this church is given. The total length is 78 feet and the width 60 feet; the auditorium is 45x47 feet, with a Sunday school room separated by rolling partitions. The general style is Romanesque, built of Grindstone City quarry stone and the best Vassar brick to finish. The public's responses in aid of the church has been liberal and satisfying and while it was not designed to erect a structure of

elaborate proportions, it will compare favorably with any church in Tuscola county. The present pastor, Rev. W. H. Betteys, is a conservative and consistent man, has the polish of a brilliant education and a business ability that would do anybody proud.

A CHAPTER OF VASSAR'S PAST.

In 1847 an appropriation of 3,000 acres of land was made by the government to build "White Bridge" over the Cass river at Bridgeport. The contract was awarded to Townsend North, Judge J. M. and Newton Edmunds. At the completion of their contract Mr. North was made agent for the company to select the lands, and he proceeded up the Cass and selected some fine pine lands where the flourishing city of Vassar now stands. In 1849 the company erected a small shanty near the present site of the Williamson tannery, and proceeded to build up a town.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

They soon had a sawmill in operation, where the Phillips and Sturgis plant now stands and in the meantime opened a general store near the same place.

S. P. Lee organized the first church society, and the small band of worshipers, composed of six members, held their first meeting on October 14, 1851.

Judge Edmunds presided over the first court, held in the county in 1852. Vassar was then the county seat, but owing to a fight which was being carried on by the

towns springing up around us for honors, on June 15, 1866, Caro, then called "Centerville," by the aid of Tuscola, secured the plum.

During the month of August, 1854, the village of Vassar was surveyed and the plat recorded. In 1858 the Presbyterian church was erected and a'so the first drug store in the county opened. The Woolen factory was erected in 1867 and Vassar began to assume the airs of a modern town.

In 1872 the Michigan Central railroad was built and the village incorporated.

HOTEL COLUMBIA.

This is one of the finest hotels in the city and county. The building, a large structure, 80x100 feet, two stories, is built of brick in excellent design. It was erected three years ago at a cost of \$9,000 and Vassar is indebted to J. P. Blackmore for its good hotels as he also built an ad-

dition to the Jewell House, thereby doubling its capacity at an expense of \$6,500 and erected several buildings on the Fairview farm costing \$5,000. He has been a friend to the laborer as can be seen by the above and has always worked hard for the growth and interest of the village, taking an active part in the building of Recreation Park to which he donated \$750 besides other improvements.

The interior arrangement of the Hotel

Columbia is excellent. On the lower floor to the right is the commodious office, with reading, baggage and sample rooms, bath and toilet rooms in rear, while to the left of the hall is the large dining room with seating capacity for fifty persons' and the cuisine is first class. On the upper floor are attractive parlors for ladies and gentlemen and thirty guest chambers all well furnished and the equipment is first class throughout.

The house has an excellent transient

well known throughout the county and state, having been in the hotel business for years in this city. His reputation as a host is proverbial, and his house one of the best in the state.

A fine livery and feeding stables in connection with capacity for fifty horses and in that line is well patronized by people in surrounding towns and country, customers often coming from fifteen to twenty miles. A full line of light and heavy carriages are constantly on hand,

Miller's Opera House is a building highly creditable to the flourishing city. It was erected in 1879 by R. W. Miller, at a cost of \$10,000, and is located at the corner of Main street and Huron avenue. The auditorium is reached by a wide range of stairs from Main street. The exterior is of red brick, a steel stair case being attached to the outside as a means of escape from fire. The seating capacity of the house is about 800, the gallery holding, perhaps, 300 of this num-



HOTEL COLUMBIA.

trade from travelers and others; also a liberal patronage from residents of Vassar and Tuscola county.

S. Blackmore, the present proprietor, is

enjoying an excellent livery trade and first class rigs are ready at any time of the day or night.

ber. The interior decorations are the finest in this quarter of Michigan outside of Saginaw and the scenery of such quality and abundance that would do credit to a much larger city. The destinies of the house are presided over by E. Emmet Miller and nothing but the best attractions are booked. The stage is reached by a covered stairway connected with the Jewell House, which provides easy access to the visiting theatrical companies.

W. B. CAVERS, has been connected with the meat business in Vassar for several years. He first started in business in the Davis building but later purchased the Jones block and removed his business there. Mr. Cavers does a strictly cash business and his large sales and steady increase of trade shows that this method may be successfully carried out. He always keeps a full line of fresh and salt meats, poultry and fish in season.



A SQUINT OF THE CASS BELOW THE DAM.

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We are the only store in Vassar that carry in stock a full line of Patterns. You don't have to wait two weeks after you've found what you want, for we have it here.

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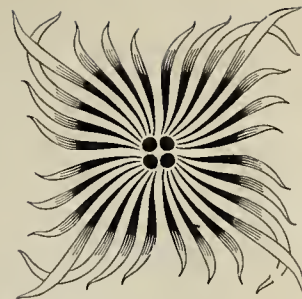
THE MAILS makes us all neighbors, and our Mail Order Department is Prompt, Accurate and Intelligent. MONEY BACK if you want it. Should your order bring you the wrong thing, don't keep it. Send it back with instructions to recall your money and the next mail will bring it.

Porteous, Mitchell & Co.

Dry Goods, Carpets and Cloaks,

Saginaw, West Side, Mich.

After Many Days



—One whole year's trial,

We are willing to give the riders of good Bicycles the benefit of our long study and practical ingenuity.

We will simply state that we have made the most valuable improvements on Ball Bearings now out.

If You Are Interested

Write us, and when we get our Catalogue out we will mail you one, then you can see that we have something that is worth a great deal if it is speed and perfection that you are after, besides, we charge you no more for our BEST than you would have to pay elsewhere.

We also put a wheel on the market, made of good material, at a less price, only it has the usual style of ball bearings, not so good as our best,
But quite as good as any produced up to date.



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From the Cleanest Stock in Tuscola County.

We have constantly on hand a full stock of Diamond Dyes and recommend them to our customers as the best and most reliable.

We call especial attention to the valuable new colors just added to the list: Black for Silk and Feathers, Fast Bottle Green, and four new cotton colors, all fast to washing with soap and will not fade or crock. Fast Pink, Fast Orange, Fast Garnet, Fast Purple.

OUR STOCK OF DRUGS, MEDICINES AND FANCY GOODS IS COMPLETE,
AND WE INVITE YOUR PATRONAGE.

H. J. MILLER, Druggist,



VASSAR, MICHIGAN.



Saginaw... Dry Goods & Carpet Co.

128, 130, 132 and 134

North Franklin St.

Saginaw, East Side.

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COMPLETE MAIL ORDER DEPARTMENT and asking
for Samples of any thing you want.

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— FROM OUR —

January Clearing Sale, Ending January 31st,

..... New Spring Goods in February,

And so on each month all the year,

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OF DOLLARS WELL INVESTED.

Our Great System of Seventeen Departments supplies every demand.

Bear us in mind; make our acquaintance either in person or by mail.

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W. B. GAVERS,

Wholesale and Retail

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Fresh and Salted Meats

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2d Door from Post Office,

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Trees, Convenient to
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Street Car Lines.

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a well regulated Hos-
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erating room, opera-
tions are therefore per-
formed under most fav-
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unsurpassed. None but
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or insane cases receiv-
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Rooms, Board,
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Charges for opera-
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What we mean is that we can give you new and well
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perhaps less) than you can buy old
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other places.

Come in and look at our stock and
you cannot help but say that we have
one of the neatest and most
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BAZAR GOODS
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We also carry the finest line of CREAM CANDIES
that we can buy.

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A. H. SPEARS & CO.

Opp. Jewell House, Vassar.



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We keep on hand at all
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and best line of

**Finished . .
Monuments.**

Our prices are as low as possible for
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We guarantee satisfaction, or no pay.

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We have erected most of the best monuments
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We are not in the White Bronze humbug.

A. F. BROCK, Prop.

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UNION BLOCK, VASSAR.



I own the block and am here to stay, a fact well worth remembering when you are buying a

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or a piece of

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on a guarantee.

I am prepared to do first-class work in Watch Repairing, Engraving, and Fitting Eyes with Glasses.

You can always depend upon finding a nice present for a Wedding or Birthday in the way of a Watch, a piece of Sterling Silver, Gold Ring or piece of Fine China.

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Always Has First-Class Attractions.

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Excellent Business Suits for

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